

*LIS 9319 Science, Technology, and Medical Information*  
Graduate Program of Library and Information Science  
Faculty of Information and Media Studies  
Western University  
Summer 2019

Co-Instructor: Stephen Coulstring

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Telephone: 519 675 5415 (Daytime Monday to Friday)

Office Hour: 4:45 to 5:45 Wednesday on evenings instructed or by appointment

Co-Instructor: Denise Smith

Email: [dsmit94@uwo.ca](mailto:dsmit94@uwo.ca)

Telephone: 289-686-9648 (Daytime Monday to Friday)

Office hour: By appointment

Class meets: Wednesday 6:00 to 8:50 p.m. FNB 3220

### **Course Description**

This course surveys the nature, presence, and communication of science, technology, and medical information. Students will gain an awareness of the information needs belonging to communities of practice in select disciplines. As well, students will consider the roles of information professionals in supporting students, researchers, and other participants in science, technology, and medicine.

PREREQUISITES: LIS 9003

### **Course Objectives**

1. To investigate the information requirements of practitioners in science, technology, and medicine.
2. To develop the skills and knowledge to provide library and information services to users of science, technology, and medical information.
3. To develop familiarity with information formats, conventions, sources, methodologies, and issues attached to user communities.
4. To demonstrate an awareness of professional values and standards.
5. To draw valid conclusions based upon sound analysis of reliable data.

### **Pedagogical Approaches**

Pedagogical approaches for course instruction include lectures, guest lectures, and database labs. Assigned readings will be drawn from academic, technical, and conference publications.

## **Instructor Information**

Stephen Coulstring (BSc, BA, BEd, MA, MLIS) is a lecturer with the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. He has over twenty years experience with reference service, bibliographic instruction, collection management, and quality assurance in a special government library context—Canada Revenue Agency. His research experience and interests include business, law, science, and public records. He has taught the following LIS courses: LIS 9323 Business and Industry Information; LIS 9318 Legal Information; LIS 9316 Government Information; LIS 9319 Science, Technology, and Medical Information.

Denise Smith (BA, MLIS) is a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies' LIS program. She has six years' experience working as an academic librarian in a university context. Since 2014 she has been an academic health sciences librarian at McMaster University. Her expertise as a practitioner includes producing robust and comprehensive search strings for systematic evidence reviews in health care and life sciences, data synthesis methodology, and information literacy theory in the undergraduate context. Her research interests include online consumer health information seeking behaviour and health information literacy. She is particularly interested in the impact of Wikipedia on the health community. Denise is an instructor in McMaster University's prestigious Bachelor of Health Sciences program where she instructs a course that challenges the dominant paradigm of authority in health information, which includes having students review and edit health content on Wikipedia.

## **Course policies**

*Writing* - Professional, grammatically correct writing is expected. This means that spelling, punctuation, and grammar are part of assignment evaluation. If you need assistance with writing, find someone whose writing skills you trust to proofread your written work or visit the Writing Support Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/>.

*Scholastic offences* - These offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

Collaboration is inappropriate in this course. Penalties for inappropriate collaboration (with no plagiarism) could include any of the following: the grade on the assignment is divided equally among all the students who collaborated inappropriately; failure on the assignment; and in extreme case (such as when the assignment accounts for a high proportion of the course grade), failure in the course.

*Wellness* - Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Student Accessibility Services* - Western is committed to achieving barrier-free accessibility for all its members, including graduate students. As part of this commitment, Western provides a variety of services devoted to promoting, advocating, and accommodating persons with disabilities in their respective graduate program.

Graduate students with disabilities (for example, chronic illnesses, mental health conditions, mobility impairments) are encouraged to register with Student Accessibility Services, a confidential service designed to support graduate and undergraduate students through their academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS and their graduate programs (normally

their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction. For more information, see <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/ssd/>

*Attendance* – Attendance at all classes is mandatory. Please see the section on attendance in the MLIS Graduate Handbook. Allowances will be made for attendance at professional conferences and job interviews only if you are in good standing in the course AND if you consult with me in advance of your absence.

*Communication* – The instructors plan to respond within 24 hours to all relevant course email that is sent to [scoulstr@uwo.ca](mailto:scoulstr@uwo.ca) or [dsmit94@uwo.ca](mailto:dsmit94@uwo.ca).

*Formatting* – Assignments should have single-spaced lines. Assignments have due dates and instructions posted to the course site on OWL. Assignments are due unless other arrangements apply.

*Grading* – Grading will conform to the guidelines published in the MLIS Graduate Student Handbook ([http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269\\_25111](http://intra.fims.uwo.ca/students/handbooks/mlis/mlis-handbook-04.htm#P269_25111)).

### **Assignments**

To complete this course, students must attend classes and submit the following assignments:

Assignment Name	Weight
Definitions	15%
Business Case	30%
Topic Report	35%
Topic Report Presentation*	20%

\* The Topic Report Presentation is drawn from the Topic Report assignment; the individual student shares her/his findings with the class.